

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY EUR:RDVINE:SLU

APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE

EUR/RPM - MR. HOLMES

EUR/NE: MR. CANNEY

P - MM. SISCO

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014292 TOSEC 010045

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - THE COD WAR
(S/S NO. 7601261)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LOWENSTEIN, ACTING THRU SISCO

1. AS A RESULT OF THE LUNS-CALLAGHAN MEETING IN BRUSSELS, BRITISH FRIGATES AND AIRCRAFT ARE APPARENTLY BEING WITHDRAWN FROM ICELANDIC WATERS. FRED IRVING TELLS US THAT PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON IS PREPARING TO GO TO LONDON TO NEGOTIATE WITH WILSON AND THAT, GIVEN THE BRITISH WITHDRAWAL, A BREAK IN ICELANDIC-UK RELATIONS IS NO LONGER IMMINENT.

2. LUNS HAS THUS DEFUSED THE SITUATION AND PUT MATTERS BACK INTO A CONSTRUCTIVE CHANNEL.

3. SO LONG AS THE BRITISH AND ICELANDERS ARE TALKING, AND CONCENTRATING ON THE CATCH FIGURES (THE ICELANDERS
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WANT A UK CATCH OF 65,000 TONS; THE BRITISH ARE PREPARED

TO ACCEPT 85,000 TONS) THE CRISIS IS OFF. THERE ARE OBVIOUS DANGERS. SHOULD THE ICELANDIC COAST GUARD CUT ANY FURTHER TRAWL LINES ON BRITISH VESSELS, THE BRITISH WOULD BE ALMOST FORCED TO SEND THEIR FRIGATES BACK IN.

SHOULD UK-ICELANDIC TALKS DRAG ON FOR LONG, THE MATTER COULD DEGENERATE TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, THE MATTER SEEMS TO BE HEADED TOWARD RESOLUTION.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS. WE HAVE CONSIDERED RECOMMENDING MESSAGES FROM YOU TO CALLAGHAN AND AGUSTSSON WITH THE THOUGHT OF PRAISING THEIR MODERATION AND STATESMANSHIP. SINCE YOU PERSONALLY HAVE NOT THUS FAR INTERVENED IN THIS MATTER, HOWEVER, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU DO NOTHING NOW AND KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY FOR THE CONTINGENCY THAT THE SITUATION MIGHT AGAIN DETERIORATE.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

5. WE DO RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM YOU TO LUNS CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS FINE EFFORT. A DRAFT MESSAGE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION FOLLOWS PARA 7.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

6. YOU MAY ALTERNATELY WISH TO MAKE REMARKS ALONG THE LINES OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE ORALLY TO LUNS WHEN YOU SEE HIM ON SATURDAY.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

7. DEAR JOSEPH: YOU HAVE PERFORMED A MINOR MIRACLE IN DEFUSING THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, A SITUATION SO PREGNANT WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE. YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE, AS I AM SURE YOU HAVE THE GRATITUDE OF OTHER NATO MEMBERS. I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION UNTIL IT IS DEFINITELY SETTLED. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU BELIEVE I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SHOULD THE MATTER AGAIN BEGIN TO DETERIORATE PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO LET ME KNOW. HENRY.

8. CLEARED: P - MR. SISCO.

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SISCO

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